

Message Text

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FOLLOWING REPEAT BANGKOK 8099 SENT ACTION SECSTATE RPTD INFO
CANBERRA JAKARTA KUALA LUMPUR MANILA RANGOON SEOUL SINGAPORE
TAIPEI TOKYO VIENTIANE WELLINGTON HONG KONG APRIL 15TH.

QUOTE: UNCLAS BANGKOK 8099

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR
SUBJECT: SPEECH BY AMBASSADOR CHARLES S. WHITEHOUSE TO
NARCOTICS CONFERENCE

SUMMARY: FOLLOWING IS TEXT (PREPARED BY USIS) OF
SPEECH DELIVERED TO EA REGIONAL NARCOTICS CONFERENCE
IN BANGKOK, APRIL 14 BY AMBASSADOR CHARLES S. WHITEHOUSE.

END SUMMARY

1. THAILAND IS ONE OF THE KEY AREAS IN THE SOUTHEAST
ASIAN NARCOTICS SCENE AND I'M GLAD TO HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY
TO SAY A FEW WORDS ABOUT THE SITUATION AS WE SEE IT
FROM HERE. IN THE PAST YEAR WE HAVE SEEN AN IMMENSE
INCREASE IN THE AMOUNT OF HEROIN RATHER THAN OPIUM
MOVING THROUGH THE VEINS AND ARTERIES OF THE ILLICIT
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SYSTEM AND WE ARE SEEING MORE PRODUCT GOING TO EUROPE.
WE BASE THAT REASONING ON THE FACT THAT MORE HEROIN
IS CAUGHT THAN OPIUM AS CONTRASTED WITH EARLIER DAYS.
SOME OF YOU WILL RECALL FIVE OR SIX YEARS AGO WHEN THE
GREAT BULK OF SEIZURES WERE OPIUM TRAWLERS HEADED FOR
HONG KONG. TODAY IT APPEARS TO ME THAT THAT TRAWLER
TRAFFIC HAS DIMINISHED AND THAT HEROIN CARRIED BY BOTH
ORIENTAL AND CAUCASIAN COURIERS OUT OF SOUTHEAST ASIA
TOWARDS EUROPE IS THE MEANS BY WHICH OPIATES ARE
REACHING THE OUTSIDE WORLD.

2. THE OTHER MAJOR DEVELOPMENT IN THE PAST YEAR IS THE DEGREE TO WHICH SEIZURES IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD, AND PARTICULARLY SEIZURES OF HEROIN, HAVE GONE UP. ONE OF THE THINGS THAT I FIND VERY GRATIFYING IN THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE PAST YEAR IS THAT WE HAVE SEEN MANY OPERATIONS AND MANY SEIZURES, RATHER THAN HAVING THE STATISTICS DRIVEN UP BY THE SEIZURE OF TWO TRAWLERS. IT'S EASY TO LOOK GOOD STATISTICALLY WITH TWO TRAWLERS OF SIX TONS EACH BUT IT DOESN'T REALLY SHOW HOW WELL YOU'RE DOING.

3. ANOTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT IN THE PAST YEAR HAS BEEN THE INTERNATIONALIZATION IN THAILAND OF THE ANTI-NARCOTICS EFFORT. THE INTERESTED EMBASSIES HERE WORK VERY CLOSELY TOGETHER AND SINCE THE LAST MEETING WAS HELD, MR. PETER LAW, BRITISH HONG KONG POLICE NARCOTICS ATTACHE, HAS BEEN JOINED IN BANGKOK BY TWO OFFICERS OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE AND OFFICERS FROM THE ROYAL NETHERLANDS POLICE, AND I'M TOLD BY MY COLLEAGUE THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR THAT A FRENCH NARCOTICS POLICE OFFICER WILL BE ARRIVING IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE. I THINK THAT THIS INTERNATIONALIZATION IS ONE OF THE MOST ESSENTIAL ASPECTS OF THE PROGRAM. IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, BOTH HERE AND IN LAOS AND BEFORE THAT IN VIETNAM, I ALWAYS FELT THAT THERE WAS A TENDENCY, UNCLASSIFIED

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BECAUSE OF THE UNDERSTANDABLY GREAT EMPHASIS THAT WE PUT ON THE PROBLEM, FOR PEOPLE IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD TO THINK THAT IT WAS AN AMERICAN PROBLEM. NOW I THINK IT'S VERY CLEAR THAT IT'S NOT EXCLUSIVELY AN AMERICAN PROBLEM. EUROPEAN POLICE SERVICES ARE WORKING HERE AND, INDEED THIS WEEK'S NEWSWEEK HAS AS ITS COVER AND PRINCIPAL STORY A STORY ENTITLED "HEROIN INVADES EUROPE."

4. I THINK TWO THINGS HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE INCREASED ACTIVITY ON THE PART OF THE THAI CUSTOMS AND POLICE SERVICES. ONE IS THAT THE TRAINING AND ADVICE AND WORK THAT HAS BEEN DONE OVER THE YEARS, AND THE COOPERATION AND COORDINATION WHICH HAS BEEN CREATED -- MUCH OF IT BY YOU GENTLEMEN HERE PRESENT -- HAS BROUGHT RESULTS. SECONDLY, PRIME MINISTER THANIN, AS YOU KNOW, PLACES THE WAR AGAINST OPIUM AND HEROIN VERY HIGH ON HIS LIST OF NATIONAL PRIORITIES. I'M DELIGHTED THAT HE'S AGREED TO ADDRESS THIS GROUP TOMORROW. BUT I EMPHASIZE THAT THE IMPROVED RESULTS IN THAILAND BEGAN LONG BEFORE THE THANIN GOVERNMENT CAME INTO POWER IN OCTOBER OF LAST YEAR.

5. A FINAL DEVELOPMENT WHICH I CONSIDER SIGNIFICANT AND NEW IS THE EFFORT MADE OVER THE PAST YEAR BY THE SEVERAL GOVERNMENTS IN THAILAND TO IMPROVE RELATIONSHIPS WITH

BURMA AND TO UNDERTAKE A DIALOGUE ON THE SUBJECT OF CONTROL OF OPIATES MOVING FROM BURMA INTO THAILAND. NOW AS MANY OF YOU KNOW, THAT HAS NOT GONE VERY FAR, BUT THE THAI GOVERNMENT HAS SENT SEVERAL MISSIONS UP TO RANGOON. IT HAS PUBLICLY AND CONFIDENTIALLY MADE KNOWN ITS WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE CLOSELY WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF BURMA, AND I THINK ALL OF US WHO HAVE WORKED WITH THIS PROBLEM SHARE THE VIEW THAT THAI-BURMESE COOPERATION IS A SINE QUA NON OF EFFECTIVE ENFORCEMENT IN THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE AREA.

6. LOOKING AT STATISTICAL CHARTS, OF COURSE, LEADS US UNCLASSIFIED

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BACK TO THE DAZZLING AND SOMETIMES TIRESOME QUESTION OF STATISTICS. I FELT A LONG TIME AGO AND STILL FEEL THAT THE KEY QUESTION FOR US AS AMERICAN MANAGERS IN THE FIELD AND INDEED IN WASHINGTON IS TO BE ABLE TO ANSWER THE QUESTION "NOW ARE WE DOING?" ARE WE DOING BETTER THIS YEAR THAN LAST YEAR? IS MORE STUFF MOVING THROUGH WHAT I CALL THE VEINS AND THE ARTERIES THAN BEFORE? HOW MUCH IS BEING CHOKED OFF BY THE INTERNATIONAL EFFORT WHICH IS TAKING PLACE? THAT QUESTION -- HOW ARE WE DOING -- IS VERY, VERY HARD TO ANSWER. INDEED AT THIS STAGE, I THINK IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO ANSWER.

7. I FIRST BECAME INTERESTED IN THIS BACK IN VIETNAM WHEN THE TWO TRAWLERS WERE CAPTURED, AND THAT WAS LOVELY. BUT NOBODY KNEW HOW MANY TRAWLERS WENT PER YEAR FROM BANGKOK TO HONG KONG SO THAT WHILE ONE HAD THE SATISFACTION OF KNOWING THEN THAT FROM 12 TO 14 THOUSAND TONS OF OPIUM HAD BEEN STOPPED, YOU WERE STILL PRETTY MUCH NO PLACE IN KNOWING HOW MUCH OF A NICK IN THE TRAFFIC THOSE MAJOR SEIZURES HAD MADE. WE THEN PURSUED THE SUBJECT A LITTLE BIT FURTHER HERE AND I SAID TO OFFICERS ON THE EMBASSY STAFF: HOW MUCH, JUST GENERALLY, HOW MUCH OPIUM OR REDUCED OPIATE DOES AN ADDICT USE IN THE COURSE OF A YEAR? THE ANSWER I GOT WAS A BIT OVER A KILO. SINCE THE THAI POLICE AND EVERYBODY'S FIGURES WERE THAT THERE WERE 300,000 ADDICTS IN THAILAND, THAT MEANT THAT THERE WAS NO OPIUM LEFT OVER TO GO ANYWHERE AND IT WAS ALL BEING CONSUMED IN THAILAND. THAT'S CLEARLY NONSENSE* THEN WE PICKED UP THE DEA MONTHLY REPORT-QUARTERLY REPORT-SOME MONTHS AGO AND CONTRASTED THE PRODUCTION FIGURES WITH THE CONSUMPTION FIGURES AND CAME OUT WITH THE FACT THAT THERE WAS AN OVERAGE OF ABOUT 200 TONS THAT NOBODY WAS USING THAT WAS UNACCOUNTED FOR. IT WAS GROWN UP IN THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE AND THEN IT JUST DISAPPEARED BECAUSE THERE WEREN'T THE CUSTOMERS FOR IT.

8. I RECOGNIZE THAT THIS STATISTICAL MORASS GAME WHICH WE BEGAN HERE MAY WELL NOT BE LEADING US ANYWHERE. I RECOGNIZE THAT ONE HAS TO MAKE DIFFICULT JUDGEMENTS, ONE HAS TO MAKE DIFFICULT ESTI- UNCLASSIFIED

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MATES, BUT WHEN OUR ESTIMATES ARE SO WILDLY OUT OF LINE, RANGING FROM THE FACT THAT TWICE AS MUCH IS CONSUMED AS IS GROWN TO THE FACT THAT THERE'S A BIG OVERAGE THAT ISN'T CONSUMED, IT SEEMS TO ME THAT, AS PRUDENT MANAGERS, WE HAVE TO KEEP EXPLORING THESE ISSUES AND TRY TO GET AN IDEA OF WHETHER THE EFFORTS OF OUR GOVERNMENT SUPPORTED BY OUR TAXPAYERS TO REALLY IMPEDE TRAFFIC OUT IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD ARE SUCCESSFUL, RELATIVELY SUCCESSFUL, HARDLY WORTH DOING OR GREAT.

9. ANOTHER THING THAT'S TERRIBLY PUZZLING AS ONE TRIES TO LOOK OVER THIS VERY CONFUSING PICTURE IS THAT I FIND IT VERY HARD TO SEE ANY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN AVAILABILITY AND PRICE. NOW WE'RE ALL TELLING EACH OTHER IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD THAT THERE'S A WONDERFUL DEVELOPMENT: THE PRICE UP IN THE SHAN STATES IS WAY DOWN AND I AGREE THAT SOUNDS JUST GREAT. BUT THE PRICE IN BANGKOK, HOWEVER, REMAINS THE SAME AND THE AMOUNTS MOVING AROUND DO NOT SEEM TO BE AFFECTED BY THE FLUCTUATIONS IN PRICE, NOT ONLY NOW BUT IN THE PAST, I.E., THERE WAS A BIG SEIZURE JUST THIS WEEK IN PARIS INVOLVING TWO THAI. WELL, THAT WAS A SIGNIFICANT SEIZURE AND THERE MUST BE MORE MOVING, AND THEREFORE, WHAT APPEARS FROM CHIANG MAI AND FROM BANGKOK TO BE A BLOCKAGE IN THE SYSTEM AND EVERYBODY IS SAYING NOBODY IS BUYING, THERE'S LOTS OF STUFF UP THERE, IT DOESN'T APPEAR TO ME TO BE REFLECTED FURTHER OUT IN THE ANTENNAS WHERE DAY AFTER DAY, WEEK AFTER WEEK, OPIATES CONTINUE TO MOVE.

10. NOW NO SPEECH IS COMPLETE WITHOUT SOMEBODY MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS AND I WILL HAZARD TWO RECOMMENDATIONS RIGHT OFF THE BAT THAT I THINK WOULD BE USEFUL TO US HERE IN BANGKOK AND BECAUSE OF THAT, SIGNIFICANT IN TERMS OF THE GENERAL SOUTHEAST ASIAN PROBLEM.

11. THE FIRST ONE IS TO RE-STUDY AND MAKE CHANGES IN THE EXISTING REWARDS POLICY. IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT, PERFECTLY UNDERSTANDABLY, DEA DECIDED SOME MONTHS AGO NOT TO GIVE REWARDS UNLESS THE SUBSTANCE HEROIN OR OPIUM OR WHAT HAVE -- WAS HEADED TOWARDS AMERICA. THAT'S A VERY SENSIBLE AND PATRIOTIC POSITION TO TAKE.
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WHY THE DEVIL SHOULD WE PAY REWARDS FOR OPIATES THAT WERE HEADED TOWARDS AMSTERDAM? THE PROBLEM HERE IN THAILAND IS THAT IN MAE HONG SON YOU CAN'T TELL WHETHER IT'S GOING TO CALIFORNIA OR WHETHER IT'S GOING TO AMSTERDAM, AND IF ONE IS TRYING TO BLOCK HIGH UP IN THE SYSTEM, I.E., UP IN THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE AREA AND UP ON THE FRONTIERS OF THAILAND, THEN I THINK WE WILL HAVE TO ACCEPT THAT REWARDS PAID WILL BE FOR OPIATES WHICH MAY WELL HAVE BEEN CONSIGNED TO EUROPE BUT AT THAT STAGE IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO KNOW. I BELIEVE IT'S WORTH STOPPING THEM THERE AND THAT THE AMOUNTS OF MONEY INVOLVED ARE NOT LARGE. IT'S CHEAPER TO DO THAT THAN TO DO A LOT OF OTHER THINGS THAT WE HAVE DONE IN THE PAST.

12. THE OTHER THING THAT I THINK THAT YOU OUGHT TO GIVE SOME CONSIDERATION TO IS THE QUESTION OF CROP SUBSTITUTION AND MARKETING. A LOT OF GOOD WORK HAS BEEN DONE IN THAILAND AND I'M SURE ELSEWHERE BY AGRONOMISTS ON RESEARCH. WHAT CAN BE GROWN? WHAT ARE THE CLIMATIC CONDITIONS AT THE DIFFERENT ALTITUDES? THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE GRANTS TO KASETSART UNIVERSITY I THINK HAVE BEEN SIGNIFICANT. THE USOM ACTIVITY HAS BEEN SIGNIFICANT. THE KING'S HILL TRIBE PROJECT HAS BEEN SIGNIFICANT. BUT I HAVE FELT FOR SOME TIME THAT WE OUGHT TO BEGIN TO STEP AWAY FROM RESEARCH AND THE IDENTIFICATION OF CROPS AND TRY AND START MARKETING PRODUCTS OF PROVED GROWABILITY. AND TO DO THAT IT SEEMS TO ME THAT ONE REALLY HAS TO HAVE AN AGENT IN THE NORTH WHO CAN TRADE IN CROP SUBSTITUTES AND BUY AND SELL WHAT IS GROWN. THAT IS ALREADY TAKING PLACE. THE UN HAS BEEN MAKING A MARKET IN RED BEANS UP THERE. BUT WHAT I'M PROPOSING IS THAT THE MARKET BE EXPANDED, OR THAT KIND OF A REVOLVING FUND OPERATION BE EXPANDED TO TAKE IN FLOWER SEEDS, BULBS, OR COFFEE, WHATEVER ELSE CAN BE BROUGHT ONTO THE MARKET. BECAUSE ONE OF THE PROBLEMS IN MY OPINION IS TO ASSURE TO THAT TRIBESMAN A FINANCIAL BREAK AND THAT HE REALLY COLLECTS FOR THE LABOR HE PUTS INTO A CROP WHICH IS NOT POPPIES.

13. LET ME JUST INVITE YOU IN THE REMAINING MINUTE, IF ANY OF YOU CARE TO, TO ASK ANY QUESTIONS. I WILL BE ABLE TO BE HERE SELDOM, I AM AFRAID, BECAUSE OF THE ARRIVAL OF CONGRESSMAN WOLFF AND UNCLASSIFIED

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HIS PARTY. BUT I LOOK FORWARD TO BEING WITH YOU AGAIN TOMORROW MORNING WITH THEM AND THEN AGAIN ON SATURDAY MORNING.
WHITEHOUSE
UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

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